

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01

INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A.

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA REGIONAL GROUP MEETING ON THE
PRESIDENCY

1. DURING MARCH 29 THE FIVE REGIONAL GROUPS OF THE LOS
CONFERENCE MET TO CONSIDER THE CONTINUITY OF AMERASINGHE
(SRI LANKA) AS PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE. THE FOLLOWING
IS A RECAP OF THE DECISIONS REACHED BY EACH GROUP AND
FORWARDED TO THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE:

WEO GROUP:

A. AMERASINGHE SHOULD CONTINUE AS PRESIDENT IN THE BEST
INTERESTS OF THE CONFERENCE. IF A CONSENSUS IS NOT
REACHED BY THE CONFERENCE IN HIS BEHALF, THE GROUP WOULD
RELUCTANTLY ACQUIESCE IN HIS RESIGNATION.

B. THE ASIAN GROUP SHOULD FIND A REPLACEMENT FOR
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AMERASINGHE WHO WOULD BE BY CONSENSUS ACCEPTABLE TO THE
CONFERENCE.

C. THE ACTING PRESIDENT SHOULD SET IN MOTION WITHOUT
DELAY SUBSTANTIVE WORK UTILIZING INFORMAL GROUPS AND
PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED AT THE FEBRUARY 1978 NEW YORK INTER-
SESSIONAL MEETING.

EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP:

- A. THERE ARE NO ARTICLES IN THE RULES OF PROCEDURES WHICH REQUIRE AMERASINGHE TO RELINQUISH HIS POSITION AS PRESIDENT THOUGH HIS CONTINUATION SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONSENSUS OF THE CONFERENCE. IT IS REQUESTED THAT ACTING PRESIDENT SO INFORM THE PLEANARY.
- B. THE GROUP WOULD BE PREPARED TO AUTHOR AN APPENDIX II TO CLARIFY ARTICLE VI IN THE LOS RULES OF PROCEDURES.

AFRICAN GROUP:

- A. REGIONAL GROUPS SHOULD NOT ACT IN HASTE AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO DISCUSS AMERASINGHE'S CONTINUATION.
- B. IF NECESSARY, THE GROUP WOULD BE PREPARED TO VOTE ON THIS ISSUE.

LATIN GROUP:

- A. THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE MUST BE A DELEGATE.
- B. AMERASINGHE'S CONTINUATION CANNOT RPT CANNOT BE SOLVED BY AMENDING THE RULES OF PROCEDURES.

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- C. THE ASIAN GROUP SHOULD COMMENCE THE PROCESS OF SELECTING A NEW CANDIDATE.

ASIAN GROUP

- A. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO FIND A SOLUTION FAVORING AMERASINGHE'S CONTINUATION.
- B. THE GROUP HOPES THE SOLUTION WILL BE DERIVED BY CONSENSUS.
- C. THE GROUP DOES NOT EXCLUDE VOTING ON THIS ISSUE.
- D. THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT FOR REVISION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURES.
- E. THE GROUP APPEALS TO THE LATIN GROUP TO RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION TAKING INTO ACCOUNT AMERASINGHE'S WORTHY ATTRIBUTES.
- F. THE GROUP CONSIDERS IT PREMATURE TO COMMENCE SELECTION OF A REPLACEMENT CANDIDATE.

2. REGIONAL GROUPS WILL ONCE AGAIN CONVENE MARCH 30 TO RENEW THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE. A PLENARY SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR THE AFTERNOON.

3. WE ARE INFORMED THAT AMERASINGHE TOLD THE LATIN GROUP THAT HE, AMERASINGHE, WOULD RESIGN. AMBASSADOR CASTANEDA (MEXICO) WILL RECOMMEND TO THE CONFERENCE THAT AMERASINGHE BE CONTINUED ON IN THE CAPACITY AS ADVISOR TO THE CONFERENCE. RICHARDSON

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